STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT

STATE: MONTANA

ELIGIBILITY UNDER SECTION 1931 OF THE ACT

The State covers low income families and children under section 1931 of the Act.

The following groups were included in the AFDC State plan effective July 16, 1996:

_X_ Pregnant women with no other eligible children

_X_ AFDC children age 18 who are full-time students in secondary school or in the equivalent level of vocational or technical training.

_X_ The agency uses less restrictive income and/or resource methodologies than those in effect as of July 16, 1996, as follows:

For all individuals covered under sections 1902(a)(10)(A)(III), 1902(a)(10)(A)(I)(VI), 1902(a)(10)(A)(I)(VII), and 1902(a)(10)(A)(ii)(IX); and 42 CFR 435.601(d)(I)(ii)(iv) and (v); 42 CFR 435.114: The income and/or resource methodologies that the less restrictive methodologies replace and the less restrictive methodologies are as follows:

1. Less Restrictive Methodology:

$2000 of resources are excluded. (In effect raising the resource standard to $3000).

Replaced Methodology:

$1000 of resources were excluded.

2. Less Restrictive Methodology:

One vehicle is excluded regardless of value. Additional vehicles are excluded if income producing (equity value of all remaining vehicles is counted).

Replaced Methodology:

Up to $1500 equity value of one vehicle was excluded. Equity value in excess of $1500 was applied to the allowable resource standard. Equity value of all other vehicles was counted.

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3. Less Restrictive Methodology:

One-time Employment Related Payments made under TANF are excluded from income and resources.

Replaced Methodology:

One-time Employment Related Payments were not previously a component of Montana's AFDC Program.

4. Less Restrictive Methodology:

Cash value of any life insurance policy is excluded from resources.

Replaced Methodology:

Cash value of life insurance counted toward the allowable resource standard.

5. Less Restrictive Methodology:

Lump sum payments are treated as a resource in the month received.

Replaced Methodology:

Lump sum payments were treated as income. Months of AFDC ineligibility were determined based on the Net Monthly Income (NMI) standard for the appropriate family size.

6. Less Restrictive Methodology:

The first $200 of each earner's earned income, plus 25% of each earner's remaining earned income, plus dependent care expenses up to $200 per month per dependent is excluded without time limitation.

Replaced Methodology:

$90 standard work expense, plus $30 and 1/3*, plus dependent care (up to $175 per month per child for children over age two, and $200 per month per child for children under age two.) *1/3 disregard allowed for only 4

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consecutive months, then not available again until the family has gone 12 consecutive months without an AFDC grant. The $30 disregard continued for 8 months beyond the initial 4 consecutive months. These were allowed only is specific tests were passed.

7. Less Restrictive Methodology:

Earned or unearned income of an individual who is legally obligated to pay child support to non-household members is excluded to the extent the income is used to pay that support.

Replaced Methodology:

Previously this income was countable.

8. Less Restrictive Methodology:

Earned income of a dependent child who is attending school is excluded.

Replaced Methodology:

Earned income of a dependent child who was a full or part-time student, but was not a full-time employee was excluded.

9. Less Restrictive Methodology:

All grants, loans and scholarships directly related to the individual attending an institution of higher education/training are excluded as income and resources.

Replaced Methodology:

Title IV grants were excluded for undergraduates. Other grants minus expenses directly related to attending the educational institution (i.e., fees, books, tuition, etc.) were counted toward the family's income.

10. Less Restrictive Methodology:

Gifts of $50 or less per month per family member are excluded from income.

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Replaced Methodology:

Gifts of any amount were considered countable income.

_____ The agency terminates medical assistance (except for certain pregnant women and children) for individuals who fail to meet TANF work requirements.

__X__ The agency continues to apply the following waivers of provisions of Part A of title IV in effect as of July 16, 1996, or submitted prior to August 22, 1996 and approved by the Secretary on or before July 1, 1997.

1. Waiver of §402 (a)(41) of the Act and 45 CFR 233.100(a)(1) to determine eligibility of a family for which the deprivation factor is unemployment without applying the requirement that the principal wage earner is employed less 100 hours per month.

2. Waiver of §402 (a)(7) and 402(a)(31) of the Act, 45 CFR 233.20(a)(1)(l)and (3)(xiv) to include a stepparent in the family in the same manner as a natural parent.

__X__ All wages paid by the Census Bureau for temporary employment related to Census 2000 activities are excluded.

__X__ All TANF (including Tribal TANF) cash assistance payment are excluded as income.

__X__ All funds (including interest) contained in Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) are excluded as a resource.
